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ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN MOST ABUSED.

BEFORE THE REBELLION.

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He is beyond question to be ranked among the most able as well as the most illustrious Gener- als now in the world.

GRANT'S CHARACTER.

His countrymen, grateful for his distinguished services, and sensible of his eminent capacity, called him to occupy the highest station which man can attain. As President of this great Re- public, he has shown that there, as in all the humbler positions he has occupied; he was "the right man in the right place." One of his pec- uliar traits is, that wherever he has been, he confined himself to his legitimate duties, exe- cuting them strictly and faithfully, and never producing complications, or exciting ill-feeling by trenching on the responsibilities belonging to others. It was enough for him to know his own duty, and to do it. This was his course as Captain, Colonel, and General, and it has been, and will be, as President. While, he shrinks from any ostentatious exercise of authority, yet, where his duty demands it, he acts with a dis- cretion and a firmness that are irresistible. This trait has distinguished him, and renders him the very man with whom to entrust the exe- cution of the will of an intelligent and free- people desirous of efficiency and liberty.

During the whole war he was incessantly oc- cupied with the vast responsibilities resting upon him, and never, during that time, attended a theatre or other place of amusement, or indulged in the enjoyments and relaxations of society. He has ever conducted himself with amenity toward all classes, and has borne all his many honors with an inherent modesty which has never for a moment been obscured, dazzled or intoxicated.



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PARTISAN MALIGNITY EVER THE SAME;

AS SHOWN BY THE FACT THAT

OUR MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN MOST ABUSED.

GRANT BEFORE THE REBELLION.

Twelve years ago, of all the men in the nation, of respectable qualifications and position, there was not one, perhaps, who seemed less likely to become President of these United States than ULYSSES S. GRANT. Engaged in a vocation without the eclat attending the "learned professions," he was quietly gliding down the stream of life, obscure, unambitious, filling no office, aspiring to none, holding no intercourse with men in high stations, and even unacquainted with the Congressional Representative of his own district. So he might have lived, and so he might have died, had not the clarion of war called all patriots to arms. With devoted alacrity he obeyed the summons, and at once gave all his powers and all his exertions to the sacred cause of freedom.

GRANT'S MILITARY CAREER.

Commencing his new military career in a humble capacity, his rare ability was soon recognized, and he constantly rose from a lower rank to a higher till he was the Commanding General of all the forces of the United States. In every position he was found to be fully adequate to fill it, and his eminent fitness appeared wherever he was placed. He, who until the breaking out of the late rebellion, had never commanded more than a company, showed himself master of the management, evolutions, and direction of hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Through him, victory perched upon our banners, and a glorious success was obtained for free institutions and an undivided country. It is no flattery to place Grant's military genius beside that of Frederick the Great or Napoleon.

He is beyond question to be ranked among the most able as well as the most illustrious Generals now in the world.

GRANT'S CHARACTER.

His countrymen, grateful for his distinguished services, and sensible of his eminent capacity, called him to occupy the highest station which man can attain. As President of this great Republic, he has shown that there, as in all the humbler positions he has occupied; he was "the right man in the right place." One of his peculiar traits is, that wherever he has been, he confined himself to his legitimate duties, executing them strictly and faithfully, and never producing complications, or exciting ill-feeling by trenching on the responsibilities belonging to others. It was enough for him to know his own duty, and to do it. This was his course as Captain, Colonel, and General, and it has been, and will be, as President. While he shrinks from any ostentatious exercise of authority, yet, where his duty demands it, he acts with a discretion and a firmness that are irresistible. This trait has distinguished him, and renders him the very man with whom to entrust the execution of the will of an intelligent and free people desirous of efficiency and liberty.

During the whole war he was incessantly occupied with the vast responsibilities resting upon him, and never, during that time, attended a theatre or other place of amusement, or indulged in the enjoyments and relaxations of society. He has ever conducted himself with amenity toward all classes, and has borne all his many honors with an inherent modesty which has never for a moment been obscured, dazzled or intoxicated.

CALUMNIES CONCOCTED AGAINST GRANT.

Yet this man, whom it might be supposed would be unassailed, has been, and is, the target for the foul and acrimonious abuse of disappointed office-seekers, and sympathisers with "the lost cause." The Democratic press has teemed with a virulence not merely political, but personal and calumnious to a degree amounting to outrage. Not only has he himself been pursued in this shameless manner, but the sanctities of his family have been invaded, his parents, and those of his wife, his relatives, and his friends have been subjected to the same detraction. The vampires of calumny have held high carnival, but never has President Grant condescended to give the least notice to the vile falsehoods concocted against him; sensible that they are as impotent as they are venomous. But if Grant is subjected to this vituperation, scandal and misrepresentation, so were the greatest and most revered of our former Presidents. Washington, Jefferson, and Madison were more reviled and abused than Grant, and preserved the same silence respecting the slanders, and felt for them the same contempt. Well has Avon's great master of human nature said:

"No might nor greatness in mortality
Can censure 'scape: back-wounding calumny
The whitest virtue strikes: What King so strong
Can tie the gall up in the slanderous tongue?"

CALUMNIES AGAINST THE FATHERS OF THE COUNTRY.

To illustrate the parity of personal and political abuse which now pervade the Democratic press, with that which equally existed in the days of Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, I shall present a series of extracts from publications and journals of that period, which a few days' research in the Library of Congress has enabled me to compile, and which, by a further employment of time might be increased to a vast extent. I had not the leisure to consult the files of scarcely any other papers than *The Aurora*, and the New York *Evening Post*, together with some pamphlets, sermons, and contemporary histories, the titles of which will be given with the extracts I shall make.

DENUNCIATIONS POURED OUT ON WASHINGTON

It might be supposed that if any mortal man in this country could "censure 'scape," it would have been Washington, but I shall show that Grant has not been abused with more virulence. Speaking of the treaty which was concluded in 1795 between this country and Great Britain. Sparks, in his *Life of Washington*, p. 467, says:

"The controversy, occasioned by it, increased the violence of party discord to almost an incredible extent; and even the motives and character of Washington did not escape a full measure of the abuse, which was poured out upon all who approved the acts of the administration. Regardless of truth and decorum, his detractors assailed him with a license and malignity, which showed an utter despair of accomplishing their ends by honorable means. But, however, they might excite his commiseration, they could not disturb his peace of mind. 'I have long since resolved,' said he, writing to the Governor of Maryland, 'for the present, at least, to let my calumniators proceed without any notice being taken of their invectives by myself, or by any others with my participation or knowledge. Their views, I dare say, are readily perceived by all the enlightened and well disposed part of the community; and by the records of my administration, and not by the voice of faction, I expect to be acquitted or condemned hereafter.'"

WASHINGTON'S INDIGNATION.

If Washington's peace of mind was not disturbed by his calumniators, as Sparks tells us, yet there were moments when he did feel irritated and annoyed by them. Jefferson, in his *ANA, Works*, Vol. IX. p. 164, gives an instance of this kind, which occurred during a Cabinet meeting, and which illustrates the extreme bitterness with which Washington was maligned. Jefferson says:

"Knox, in a foolish incoherent sort of a speech, introduced the pasquinade lately printed, called the funeral of George W——n, and James W——n, King and Judge, &c., where the President was placed on a guillotine. The President was much inflamed; ran on much on the personal abuse which had been bestowed on him; defied any man on earth to produce one single act of his since he had been in the government, which was not done with the purest motives; that he had never repented but once the having slipped the moment of resigning his office, and that was every moment since he was inaugurated; that he had rather be in his grave than in his present situation; that he had rather be on his farm than to be made *Emperor of the World*; and yet they were charging him with wanting to be King. That that rascal Freneau sent him three of his papers every day, as if he thought he would become the distributor of his papers; that he could see in this, nothing but an impudent design to insult him: he ended in this high tone."

In a letter to Jefferson, dated Mount Vernon, July 6, 1796, Washington says: (*Writings*, XI. 139.)

"Every act of my administration is tortured, and the grossest and most invidious representations of them are made, by giving one side only of a subject, and that too in such exaggerative and indecent terms as could scarcely be applied to a Nero, a notorious defaulter, or even to a common pick-pocket."

WASHINGTON ASSAILED IN CONGRESS.

During the very last session of Congress before the termination of Washington's Presidency, a complimentary address was prepared to present him on the occasion of his retirement. So many amendments were offered, and so much debate and criticism took place that Washington, at length, deplored the fact that any such address had been contemplated. In the course of the debate, Thomas Blount [I quote from Gales and Seaton's *Annals of the Fourth Congress*, 2d Session, p. 1667:]

"Moved to strike out the following clause in the last paragraph: 'For our country's sake, for the sake of Republican liberty, it is our earnest wish that your example may be the guide of your successors; and thus, after being the ornament and safeguard of the present age, become the patrimony of your descendants.'"

Even in favor of *such* an excision there were 24 votes. After a fiery ordeal for the address, and after various amendments, alterations and suppressions had been considered, it came up for final passage. Then Mr. Blount [I quote from the same *Annals of Congress*] "wished the yeas and nays might be taken, that posterity might see that he did not consent to the address." There were 12 votes against the adoption of it—12 who resisted to the last.

GOVERNOR GILES AGAINST WASHINGTON.

As a further specimen of what was said in open Congress by men of prominence, I will cite a paragraph from the remarks of Mr. Giles, himself a Virginian, and afterwards Governor of Virginia. He said:

"As to those parts of the address which speak of the wisdom and firmness of the President, I must object to them. On reflection, I can see a *want of wisdom and firmness* in the Administration for the last six years. I may be singular in my ideas, but I believe our Administration has been neither wise or firm. I believe, sir, a want of wisdom and firmness has brought this country into its present alarming situation. If, after such a view of the Administration, I was to come into this house and show the country a quiet acquiescence in this address, gentlemen would think me a very inconsistent character. If we take a view of our foreign relations, we shall see no reason to exult in the wisdom or firmness of our Administration. I think nothing so much as a want of that wisdom and firmness has brought us to that critical situation in which we now stand."

THE AURORA'S IMPEACHMENT OF WASHINGTON.

Such were some of the scenes in Washington's last Congress; but when his Presidency had ended, and he had entered into that private

life he so longed for and coveted, there appeared the following paragraphs in the editorial columns of *The Aurora* for March 6, 1797:

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," was the pious ejaculation of a man who beheld a flood of happiness rushing in upon mankind. If ever there was a time which would license the reiteration of the exclamation, that time has now arrived; for the man who is the source of all the misfortunes of our country is this day reduced to a level with his fellow citizens, and is no longer possessed of power to multiply evils upon the United States. If ever there was a period for rejoicing, this is the moment. Every heart in unison with the freedom and happiness of the people ought to beat with high exultation that the *name* of Washington from this day ceases to give a currency to political iniquity, and to legalize corruption. A new era is now opening upon us—a new era which promises much to the people; for public measures must now stand upon their own merits, and nefarious projects can no longer be supported by a *name*.

"When a retrospect is taken of the Washington Administration for *eight years past*, it is a subject of the greatest astonishment that a single individual should have cancelled the principles of Republicanism in an enlightened people, just emerged from the gulf of despotism, and should have carried his designs against the public liberty so far as to have put in jeopardy its very existence. Such, however, are the facts, and with these staring us in the face, this day ought to be a *jubilee* in the United States."

Is President Grant denounced in worse terms than this by the most virulent and malignant of his opponents?

MARSHALL, CONCERNING THE ABUSE OF WASHINGTON.

But while a volume might be compiled to exemplify the contumely and invective with which the "Father of his country" was criticised, I shall content myself with one further illustrative extract. Chief Justice Marshall, in his *Life of Washington*, Vol. II., p. 370, says:

"WASHINGTON's military and political character was attacked with equal violence, and it was averred that he was totally destitute of merit, either as a soldier or a statesman. The calumnies with which he was assailed were not confined to his political conduct; even his qualities as a man were the subjects of detraction. That he had violated the Constitution in negotiating a treaty without the previous advice of the Senate, and in embracing in that treaty subjects belonging exclusively to the legislature, was openly maintained, for which an impeachment was publicly suggested; and that he had drawn from the Treasury for his private use more than the salary annexed to his office, was asserted without a blush. This last allegation was said

to be supported by extracts from the Treasury accounts, which had been laid before the Legislature, and was maintained with the most unblushing effrontery. Though the Secretary of the Treasury denied that the appropriation made by the Legislature had been exceeded, the atrocious charge was still confidently reported, and the few who could triumph in any spot which might tarnish the lustre of Washington's fame felicitated themselves in the prospect of obtaining a victory over the reputation of a patriot, to whose single influence they ascribed the failure of their political plans."

INFAMOUS CHARGES AGAINST JEFFERSON.

I will now pass to Thomas Jefferson. During his Presidency, and during the canvass and election which preceded it, the whole vocabulary of abuse was exhausted by the federal press, and the charges were constantly rung upon Carter's Mountain—Mrs. Walker—Black Sally—the purchase of Louisiana—the salt mountain—mastodons and mammoths—Infidelity—the inviting Thomas Paine to return here in a government vessel—the proscription of Federalists—removals from office—ingratitude—

"And every taint of vice where strong corruption
Inhabits our frail blood."

JEFFERSON SLANDERED IN DOGGEREL VERSE.

I shall first present some *poetical* (?) attacks on the man now so enshrined in the hearts of his countrymen, that abuse of him almost seems like blasphemy. Thomas Green Fessenden, an author and journalist of some note in 1805 and thereabouts, wrote a Hudibrastic poem in two good sized duodecimo volumes, entitled "*Democracy Unveiled, or Tyranny stripped of the Garb of Patriotism.*" I have before me the third edition, printed in New York in 1806. The work had a large circulation, and was very popular in the federal party. The federal magazines and reviews, and the universal federal press lauded it to the skies, and canonized Thomas Green Fessenden as a federal saint of rare excellence and potency. In this scurrilous poem, at once unmusical and slanderous, may be found, scraped together, the filth and defamations which were poured out in that day, on Jefferson, on Jefferson's friends, and on the party to which he belonged. The democratic traducers and calumniators of present times, in manufacturing the detraction and calumny with which they asperse President Grant, are only fit pupils of the calumniators who endeavored to defame and disgrace Thomas Jefferson. But they and their infamous libels are forgotten,

while the name of the man they hated shines resplendent in the temple of fame with a glory that will be eternal. So will it be with Grant and his envenomed detractors. From the cesspools of deserved and retributive obscurity I shall drag again to light a few specimens of the scurrilous calumny which formerly, as now, was cast on merit by ignoble, envious, and disappointed hatred.

FESSENDEN'S VITUPERATIVE RHYMES.

Thomas Green Fessenden, in the third canto of his doggerel, vituperative rhymes, speaking of the alleged prevalence of anarchy, says:

"The mouldering flame in secret burn'd
When Jefferson from France return'd
To aid the Factions' frantic schemes,
With fresh illuminated dreams.
In Wei-hanp's school his lesson learn'd
He with pernicious ardor burn'd,
To introduce his *whimsicalties*,
And make them in our land realities.
Nature ne'er made a fitter man
To give effect to such a plan,
Nor do I think, with ten years pother,
That she could hit out such another,
Pblegmatic, cunning, and wrong headed,
To visionary tenets wedded,
A writer plausible, sophistical,
Never profound, but always mystical;
Possess'd of that mysterious air,
Which makes the gaping vulgar stare,
And gives the weakest men dominion,
Founded on popular opinion.
His native cunning to enhance,
He adds the dark finesse of France,
Reduc'd to system, by the rules
Of Jacobin-illumined schools;
Supported by the fucious heads
Of ever restless *anti-feds*,
Rogues, to true liberty a pest,
Who make her seat a hornet's nest;
That were not justice in arrears
These new-school folks would lack their ears!"
&c., &c.

FESSENDEN'S PUTRID DOGGEREL.

"The Jeffersonian" is the title of the fourth canto of "*Democracy Unveiled*," and this canto commences the second volume. It is eighty-two pages in length, and in it are rehearsed all the calumnies with which it was so vainly attempted to tarnish the illustrious author of the Declaration of Independence. I will again disinter some specimens of the calumnious rancor which festers in the putridity of Fessenden's doggerel verse:

"We offer with all veneration
Due to his Highness's high station,
Our services to daub and gloss over
A philanthropical philosopher.
The mighty chief of Carter's Mountain,
Of democratic power the fountain;
We would extol, his favor buying
By most profound and solid lying.
But shall we undertake to hire

Some democratic muse, a liar,
 Who would, for pelf, in lays most civil,
 Sing hallelujahs to the Devil?
 Or seek in dark and dirty alley
 A Mr. Jefferson's Miss Sally,
 In our *free government* no matter
 Whether coal black, or swart mullatto?
 Though his High mightiness was skittish,
 When menac'd by the bullying British,
 The Feds are wrong to make a clatter
 About the Carter-Mountain matter.
 A chief who stands not shilly shally,
 But is notorious for—a *Sally*,
 Might Mars defy, in war's dire tug,
 Or Satan to an Indian bug.
 Great men can never lack supporters,
 Who manufacture their own voters;
 Besides 'tis plain as yonder steeple,
 They will be *fathers* to the people;
 And 'tis a decent, clever, comical,
 New mode of being economical;
 For when a black is rais'd, it follows
 It saves a duty of ten dollars.

"Wisdom in JEFF descends to cunning;
 Talents—a knack at danger shunning;
 Morality—to be complete in
 What some old fashion'd folks call cheating.
 In literature, his reputation
 A fabric is without foundation.
 His style is tinsel, glare and whimsey,
 No lady's novel half so flimsy;
 As full of glaring contradictions
 As Ovid's works are full of fictions;
 And what, indeed, we might expect,
 His morals are as incorrect
 As are his writings—froth and flummery
 Express them both in manner summary.
 Why don't our Carter-hill commander,
 Who's so beset with federal slander,
 Pursue the rogues who dare devise,
 Against his Majesty such lies;
 Because in spite of his renown
 He knows the truth would put him down,
 Nor has he hardihood to sport
 His rotten character in court."

There are, independent of prefaces, introduction and index, three hundred and ninety-four pages of this kind of stuff; but the extracts I have given will suffice as an example of the abuse and falsehoods which were so shamelessly circulated against Thomas Jefferson, and which the democrats are now endeavoring to equal in regard to President Grant.

THE OLD NEW YORK POST AGAINST JEFFERSON.

I shall now exhume some prose specimens of eloquence quite equal to the *poetical* garlands already exhibited. In the New York *Evening Post*, for July 20, 1802, we are informed that—

"Mr. Jefferson came to the government by means which have raised thousands before him to power, and he will share the fate of every parasite of (those whom demagogues call) the people! In 1792 he took the fatal resolution of opposing to the administration of the Federal Government the farce of sophistry, calumny, and misrepresentation! He has continued the great file leader of the malcontents, the vicious, and all who favor revolutionary liberty. Mr. Jefferson

may fancy himself secure in the wretched confidence of popularity; but he is deceived; *that* will vanish and leave him to repent, at leisure, of power ill gotten and scandalously abused."

JEFFERSON DENOUNCED AS A LIAR, &C.

On the 2nd of September, 1802, Mr. William Colman, then Editor of the New York *Evening Post*, thus expressed himself in his editorial columns:

"See Jefferson convicted in the face of days of crimes the most degrading—a *mean calumniator* of men whose worth he knew, and whose services he has seen! A *fawning hypocrite* who could pretend affection while he basely traduced; a LIAR who could proclaim his respect for characters which to his intimates he described as contemptible."

The same paper for June 22, 1802, says:

"This [Jefferson] is the man who is eternally canting and whining about executive influence. Take it away, he exclaims, take it away—and his ministers say it is taken away while every law is repealed, and all existing offices abolished to get at the federal officers and sacrifice them to make room for the friends and supporters of his EXCELLENCY, plain 'Thomas Jefferson.'"

JEFFERSON RELEGATED TO HELL.

In the collection of Political Pamphlets, in the Library of Congress, Vol 107, may be found the choice paragraph which follows, and which truly portrays the animosity felt toward Jefferson by his enemies.

"Who are the enemies of the country? Its rulers. What do they deserve? Hell. Avaunt thou tyrant. If thou canst not be saved by reformation, go to Hell as thy proper abode. O thou disturber of the peace; thou destroyer of thousands; what hast thou done? Ask Bonaparte, ask the Devil. Thy grave will not secure thy bones from burning."

JEFFERSON'S PERSON AND DRESS RIDICULED.

In the New York *Evening Post*, for January 7, 1802, is the following personal paragraph, wherein Jefferson's dress is described in a manner very different from another description which will immediately succeed this one:

"We hear that the *mammoth cheese* has been received by the President of the United States, at Washington, from the charge of Parson Leland. It is said the President stood in his door to receive it, dressed in his *suit of customary black*, with shoes on that close tight round his ankles, laced up with a neat leather string, and absolutely without buckles, considering them as superfluous and anti-republican, especially when a man has strings"

In the same paper for April 20, 1802, a Washington correspondent thus displays his graphic powers:

"Jefferson is dressed in long boots with the tops pressed down about the ankles like a Virginia buck; overalls of corduroy, faded by frequent immersions in soap-suds from yellow to a dull white; a red single-breasted cloth waistcoat, bearing unquestionable marks that he is in the habit of feeding without a bib; a light brown coat, with dull brass buttons, once gilt; and both coat and waistcoat seem to be aged, at least, five years, more or less; his linen bespeaks that close attention to savings in his dealings with his washer-woman, which has been so much insisted upon by Mr. Bailey; his hair is undressed, and beard unshaven.

"Such is the figure to whom you are presented as President of the United States."

SUMNER'S "SEA-SIDE LOITERINGS."

The whole country is aware of the obstreperous and hypocritical howl which the Democratic press sets up in regard to the temporary absences of President Grant from Washington, when Congress is not in session. But neither Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, or any of the former Presidents and their cabinets, except Madison and Lincoln, who had a war to conduct, remained continually at the seat of government during recesses of Congress. There is no need of such a constant residence, and such are now the facilities of travel and communication, that an inhabitant of the United States may almost be said to be always nearly as much in one place as another. But there is never wanting a reason for reproach and condemnation where men are purposely malignant and censorious. The same captious complaints that are now leveled at Grant are but reproductions of similar jeremiads uttered against our most revered Presidents.

ABSENTEEISM OF JEFFERSON AND CABINET.

I give a specimen of this clamor which appeared in the New York *Evening Post* for June 1, 1802. Its Washington correspondent says:

"SYMPTOMS OF ABSENCE AND NEGLECT OF DUTY.—The President has retired to Monticello. Mr. Madison, Secretary of State, is gone to Virginia. Secretary Dearborn returned on the 17th, from an excursion to the Eastward. Mr. Gallatin Secretary of the Treasury, is on a party of pleasure to Pennsylvania and New York. Perhaps some profitable speculation may fall under his notice, as he has much money at command. The Postmaster General has gone, in the mail, to Connecticut. Mr. Duane, (the particular friend of Mr. Jefferson and in the absence of Mr. Giles, one of his constitutional advisers) has repaired to Philadelphia. Levi Lincoln, Esq., Attorney General, was the only public officer, resident at the seat of Government, for some time past."

ABSENTEEISM OF WASHINGTON.

A change of names and dates would only be necessary to convert this paragraph into an

editorial for the *Tribune*, *World*, or *Patriot*. But the people of the United States look back with pride and exultation to the administration of the illustrious Jefferson, well knowing that no public duties were then neglected by him, as none now are by Grant, notwithstanding Sumner's sonorous phrases of "absenteeism" and "sea-side loiterings." Whoever will look into Spark's *Writings of Washington*, (Vol. I., 456, 468; X., 113, 121, 146, 165, 166, 194, 200, 237, 295, 330, 334, 337, 352, 355, 368, 386, 415, 423; XI., 26, 54, 67, 69, 85, 130,) will find that during his whole administration he was at Mount Vernon as much as public business would allow him to be. Every year he was absent from the seat of government *months at a time*. This, too, was while New York and Philadelphia were respectively the seats of government, and when it required from four to seven days for letters to reach the President. Yet no harm accrued on this account, nor does it appear that it exposed him even to partisan criticism, though our republican institutions were then making their first trial, and that time was freighted with their future hopes.

ABSENTEEISM OF JOHN ADAMS.

A similar examination of the *Works of John Adams* will show that he, too, was at Quincy whenever public duties did not compel his stay at the seat of government. It required days for a letter to reach him. Partisanship did assail him on account of this absence, and some of Adams's friends were frightened at the fierce objurgations of his opposers. Not so the old chief himself. General Uriah Forrest, in his alarm, wrote him a letter, dated Georgetown, April 28, 1799, (*Works of John Adams*, Vol. VIII., 637,) in which he says:

"I feel how improper it is, in so inconsiderable an individual as I am, to be intruding on your time, much more, obtruding opinions and advice. I shall, however, hazard your censure, and be guilty of the impropriety which stares me in the face. * * * The public sentiment is very much against your being so much away from the seat of government, from a conviction that, when you are there, the public vessel will be properly steered, and that these critical times require an experienced pilot. The people elected you to administer the government."

In a letter, dated Quincy, May 13, 1799, (*Works*, VIII., 645,) and which date illustrates the comparatively slow transmission of mail matter at that time, President Adams says to General Forrest:

"I received on Saturday your friendly letter of 28th April, and I thank you for it, and should be very happy if it were in my power to comply with your advice, not so much on account of any real public utility, as in compliance with what you call the public sentiment. I have reason to believe, however, that this sentiment is chiefly in Philadelphia and Georgetown. The people elected me to administer the government, it is true, and I do administer it here at Quincy as really as I could do at Philadelphia. The Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy, and the Attorney General, transmit me daily by the post all the business of consequence, and nothing is done without my advice and direction when I am here more than when I am in the same city with them. The post goes very rapidly, and I answer by return of it, so that nothing suffers or is lost."

In a note to this letter, Charles Francis Adams says, that "in absentiing himself from the seat of government during the recess of Congress, Mr. Adams did no more than his predecessor, General Washington."

ABSENTEEISM OF JEFFERSON.

Adams's successor, Thomas Jefferson, was no less open to the charge of "absenteeism." An examination of his *Writings*, (Vol. III., 195, 265, 456; IV., 393, 405, 413, 498, 507, 542, 557, 562; V., 20, 65, 77, 148, 199, 261, 289, 299, 368,) will show that, both when Secretary of State and when President, he spent months at a time at Monticello, and various periods in journeys or in hunting. When at Monticello it required about seven days for a letter to reach him. But whenever public duty exacted his presence at the seat of government he was there, and the invectives of his enemies disturbed him not.

VINDICTIVE TIRADES AGAINST MADISON.

I now pass to the administration of James Madison. At that time the United States was engaged in a second war with the most powerful nation on earth, as Great Britain then was. The war was eminently just, and had been postponed as long as our national honor could suffer it without stain. It was so recognized by a large majority of the people, and under such circumstances even dissentients, who wish for their country's success, help to sustain the hand of the government. But never was man abused more by his opponents than Madison. Resistance of the fiercest kind was constant, and rebellion and revolution were not only threatened but almost executed. The same spirit of hatred and opposition which caused the slave-mongers of the South to rebel, then nearly produced the

secession of New England. I have many extracts before me to illustrate my statements, but the space at my disposal will not allow me to present more than one or two.

The *Federal Republican* for November 7, 1814, says:

"On or before the 4th of July, if James Madison is not out of office, a new form of government will be in operation in the Eastern section of the Union. * * Mr. Madison cannot complete his term of service if the war continues. It is not possible, and if he knew human nature he would see it."

The *Boston Gazette* also said:

"Is there a federalist or patriot in America who will shed his blood for Madison or Jefferson, and that host of ruffians in Congress, who have set their faces against us for years? Shall we then any longer be held in slavery by such a graceless faction? Heaven forbid!"

CLERICAL DENUNCIATION OF MADISON AND JEFFERSON.

I might fill a folio volume with extracts of the same character and virulence, and have before me a large number selected from sermons delivered by the Rev. J. S. J. Gardiner, A. M., Rector of Trinity Church, Boston; the Rev. David Osgood, D. D., Pastor of the Church at Medford; the Rev. Elijah Parish, D. D., and other divines, also members of the Church militant, who denounced Jefferson's administration as "a diabolical Trinity, composed of Thomas Jefferson, Tom Paine and the Devil!" I shall omit them, for the present at least, and shall only add a piece of grim, but nevertheless laughable, humor on the part of a clergyman in the State of Maine, whose hatred of the Devil was mild in comparison with that which he entertained for Jefferson. When in the act of public prayer, he said:

"Oh Lord! thou commandest us to love our enemies, to do good to those who persecute us and despitely use us, and to pray for wretches who are full of wickedness and iniquity. In obedience to thy commands, oh God! do I now at this time, pray for Thomas Jefferson, President of these United States."

GRANT'S FUTURE.

We have seen how our best and most illustrious Presidents have been the most reviled; but we also know that the great popular heart of the country was never alienated from them—that they were honored and beloved while living—and that they were crowned with reverence and immortality in their graves. The people called each of them to a second Presidential term, and testified their scorn for the detraction poured out on the men who were then and will forever be so

dear to them. Thus will it be with President GRANT who has been renominated and will be re-elected by a grateful nation, that knows and appreciates his excellence and his worth.

VENOMOUS SLANDERS OF GRANT.

Among the most persistent and malignant of the traducers of Grant, must be ranked a man to whom was formerly awarded a place of respectability in the republic of letters. But when Charles Sumner descends to shameless obloquy and malicious calumny, he degrades himself to the level of Kilpatrick and Dana,

"And falls to cursing like a very drab."

Mr. Sumner delights in quoting the classics, and very often regales his auditors and readers with citations from Plutarch, Juvenal, and others. In view of his late exhibition of billingsgate oratory, he may be referred to an *ancient* enemy of Homer's ULYSSES whose peculiar view of eloquence he now seems very anxious to imitate and excel. We would refer this *arbiter elegantiarum* to a passage in the second book of the Iliad, and to Pope's translation, somewhat altered in obedience to later readings! The lines portray Thersites, the orator of the Trojan war. Pope, in a note says, (Vol. I. p. 85.) "that Thersites hated Achilles and ULYSSES; in which, as Plutarch has remarked in his *Treatise of Envy and Hatred*, Homer makes it the utmost completion of an ill character to bear a malevolence to the best of men." I shall quote:

"Thersites *madly* clamor'd in the throng,
Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue;
Aw'd by no shame, by no respect controll'd,
In scandal busy, in reproaches bold;
With angry malice studious to defame,

Scorn all his joy, and slander all his aim.
But chief he glory'd with licentious style
To lash his betters, and their deeds revile.
His figure such as might his soul proclaim;
His form was burly, and one leg was lame.
His mountain shoulders half his breast o'erspread,
His tousel'd hairs bestrew'd his shaggy head.
Spleen to the good his envious heart possess'd,
And much he hated all, but most the best:
Ulysses or Achilles still his theme;
But carping censure his delight supreme.
'Twas caused the scorn of ev'ry faith'ul Greek,
Who felt disgust when thus they heard him speak.
Hoarse was his voice, which in a husky tone
Hurled taunts with venom notably his own."

Such is the picture of an ancient wrangler in whose footsteps Mr. Sumner is treading, and his hoarse tones constantly reiterate the same stale and vindictive charges. They are both contradictory and unfounded, and have been often fully refuted. But the Greeley-democrats none the less continue to repeat them. To state truth will have no effect, of course, on the premeditated libelers and slanderers of Grant and the Republican Party, but it will have its weight with men of impartiality, and with those who are animated with a regard for the true welfare of the country. The disorganizers and conspirators in the land will continue their virulent abuse, but it will be like the darkness of night attempting to blot out the brightness and glory of the resplendent sun.

Let slanderous DANA, grow'ling on the earth,
Vainly attempt to give his malice birth;
Still let him toil and labor to rehearse
Falsehoods most vile, in either prose or verse;
Daily malignant, let him raise his voice,
And vent his vengeful spite in jarring noise;
Unheeded let him lift his churlish cry,
A patriot's mind his hatred can defy—
Can feel contempt for all his puny rage,
Secure of fame in this and ev'ry age,
Always to virtue and his country true,
Like that ULYSSES whom great Homer drew.

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